

Message

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Sent: 4/13/2021 12:23:05 AM
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CC: Nate Bello [bello@wra-ca.com]; Tracey Brownfield [tracey@landveritas.com]; Mayer, David@Wildlife [David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov]
Subject: PRMB - Rift Valley Flash Grazing Proposal for IRT Email Authorization
Attachments: 2021-04-09_PRMB Flash Grazing Guidance Manual.pdf

Hello Petersen Ranch IRT,

We are about to begin adaptive management efforts at the Bank. During our December 15, 2020 meeting, the IRT requested the Bank Sponsor submit adaptive management proposals to the IRT for review and email authorization/approval.

Per that discussion, please find attached our proposal for completing flash grazing in the Rift Valley to control non-native annual grasses encroaching on the restored wetland complex. We prepared the proposal in the form of a guidance document that can be referenced during implementation by the Ranch manager. It includes a pasture and infrastructure map, stocking rate recommendations, field indicators of adaptively managing the intensity of grazing, and monitoring recommendations.

The goals of the plan are to (1) reduce stress on native plant species in Rift Valley wetland communities and (2) increase habitat quality for native plants and animals. Flash grazing will help shape the community composition of the wetlands to favor native species, and reduce the evapotranspiration of soil water during native perennial grass dormancy by reducing biomass of annual grasses.

To summarize, the plan recommends the following:

- Begin grazing in mid-April and end May 31 to target non-native annual grasses ahead of emergence of natives;
- Targeted grazing of four pastures dividing up the Rift Valley, starting from the west and working east, in two passes within the grazing timeframe;
- Regular monitoring and reporting on metrics such as stocking rate, stubble height, regular photographs, and autumn RDM measurements; and
- Summary of effort will be presented in the 2021 annual monitoring report, submitted to the IRT by November 15, 2021.

We have confirmed via review of the BEI, LTMP, and conservation easement that grazing within the Rift Valley is allowed with IRT approval.

Please review and provide us with approval and email authorization to implement the plan. Please note that we anticipate grazing would need to begin very soon (within the next 1-2 weeks) so we appreciate your timely attention to this.

Thanks and please reach out with any questions.
Marlene

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